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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/721,588	11/24/2003	Glenn Jay Adler	US018169A	5784

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EXAMINER

TRAN, HENRY N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2629

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/721,588

Applicant(s)

ADLER, GLENN JAY

Examiner

Henry N. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3-7 and 9-11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,8 and 12-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Application has been examined. The original claims 1-20 are pending. The examination results are as follows.

Priority

1. It is noted that this application appears to claim subject matter disclosed in prior Application No. 09/992,601, filed 11/13/2001. A reference to the prior application must be inserted as the first sentence(s) of the specification of this application or in an application data sheet (37 CFR 1.76), if applicant intends to rely on the filing date of the prior application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, or 365(c). See 37 CFR 1.78(a). For benefit claims under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(c), the reference must include the relationship (i.e., continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) of all nonprovisional applications. Applicant is required to update the first sentence(s) of the specification of this application to reflect the present status of the referenced application, which is now US Patent No. 6,791,528.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The examiner has considered the documents listed in form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) received 11/24/03 (see the attached form PTO-1449).

Note: The listing of references in the forms PTO-892 is not a proper information disclosure statement. Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show the reference number “10” as described in page 6 of the specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: the claimed term “a plurality of lights sources” recited on line 4 should be changed to --a plurality of light sources--. Appropriate correction is required.

For the purpose of this Office action, the Examiner assumes that the claimed term “a plurality of lights sources” is changed to --a plurality of light sources--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 2, 8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hulick et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,462,941, hereinafter referred to as “Hulick”) in view of Yanagisawa et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,657,459, hereinafter referred to as “Yanagisawa”).

Re claim 1, Hulick, Figs. 1-4 and 14, teaches a backlight system for use with a mobile display system that includes a mobile unit (100) capable of being powered by a battery (215) and a base station (60) capable of being powered by an external power source using the electrical interface (260), the backlight system comprising: a first circuit in the mobile unit, the first circuit including a plurality of light sources (1403) disposed near edges of the mobile unit and a first power supply (215) for powering a pre-selected one of the light sources when operating in a mobile mode of operation; and a second circuit in the base station (60), the second circuit including an electrical interface (260) connected to the mobile unit's connector (108) and a serial communication (265) for providing communication data and power supply to the mobile unit; see col. 4, line 44 to col. 5, line 20; and col. 7, lines 48-55.

However, Hulick does not teach expressly that at least a second power supply separate from the mobile unit for powering a plurality of the light sources in the mobile unit when the mobile unit is attached to the base station.

Yanagisawa, Figs. 23, 24, 26 and 27, teaches a mobile display system that includes a mobile unit (50) (a main apparatus 50 of a pen-base computer) having a backlight (21), and a base station (130) (a subsidiary apparatus) comprising a second circuit (1) (a power source controller 1) separate from the mobile unit for powering a plurality of the electronic components including a light source LED (27) in the mobile unit when the mobile unit is attached to the base station; see col. 19, lines 40-57; and col.21, line 24 to col. 22, line 11.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the base station second circuit as taught by Yanagisawa in the Hulick base station because this would effectively utilize the power source available in the base station for operating the mobile display system while charging or reducing the consumptive power of the mobile unit battery, see Yanagisawa, col. 3, lines 30-37.

By this rationale, claim 1 is rejected.

Re claim 2, Yanagisawa further teaches that the second circuit further comprises a plurality of power supplies, such as a battery 33 and an AC adapter power source 34, for powering the plurality of light sources respectively when the mobile unit is attached to the base station; see Fig. 24; and col. 21, lines 17-26.

Re claim 8, which comprises similar claimed elements and limitations of claims 1 and 2, and is therefore rejected on the same reasons set forth in claims 1 and 2 discussed above.

Re claim 12, Hulick in view of Yanagisawa teaches an AC powered base station configured to removably attach to a battery powered mobile, the base station combining with a mobile unit to form an illumination system, the illumination system comprising: a first circuit in the mobile unit (100), the first circuit including one or more light sources LEDs (1403) for illuminating a display (105) of the mobile unit (100), the first circuit being battery powered using a battery (215) when unattached to the base station (60); see Hulick, Figs. 3 and 4; and a second AC powered circuit (1) using the AC adapter (34) in the base station (130), including at least one means (31) (a plane switch 31) for supplying the power to the mobile unit (50) for illuminating the mobile unit's display when the mobile unit is attached to the base unit; see Yanagisawa, Figs. 24 and 26A; and col. 21, lines 17-26, lines 54-58; and col. 22, lines 3-11.

Claim 12 is therefore rejected.

7. Claims 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hulick in view of Yanagisawa, hereinafter referred to as "Hulick-Yanagisawa", as applied to claims 1-2, 8 and 12 above, and further in view of Kitamura (JP 05095359 A, pub. date 4/16/1993).

Re claims 13 and 18, Hulick-Yanagisawa teaches generally all except for the base unit includes at least one light source, the light source being coupleable to the mobile unit to transmit light to the display when the mobile unit is attached to the base station through a selected surface on the base station, the surface comprising a light transmissive material; and the means for illuminating the mobile unit's display is configured to increase the illumination of the display relative to a battery-powered illumination mode for the mobile unit when it is not attached to the base unit. Kitamura, Fig. 1, teaches an illumination system comprising the base unit (11)

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includes at least one light source (15), the light source being coupleable to the mobile unit (a portable radio telephone) to transmit light to the display when the mobile unit is attached to the base station through a selected surface (a light transmission plate on the base unit adjacent to the light transmission plate end part 7 of a body 1 of the mobile unit; and the light source 15 acts as the means for illuminating the mobile unit's display; and is configured to increase the illumination of the display relative to a battery-powered illumination mode for the mobile unit when it is not attached to the base unit; see abstract. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the light source attached to the base unit as taught by Kitamura in the Hulick-Yanagisawa device because this would provide an improved illumination system capable of enhancing the backlight brightness for displaying high quality images. By this rationale, claims 13 and 18 are rejected.

Re claim 14, Yanagisawa further teaches that the means for increasing the illumination of the mobile unit's display comprises at least one power supply, e.g., AC adapter 34, see Fig. 24, for connecting to the first circuit and powering the one or more light sources in the mobile unit.

Re claim 15, Yanagisawa further teaches the second circuit, wherein the second circuit further comprises a plurality of power supplies, such as a battery 33 and an AC adapter power source 34, for powering the plurality of light sources respectively when the mobile unit is attached to the base station; see Fig. 24; and col. 21, lines 17-26.

Re claim 16, Yanagisawa further teaches that the base station (130) comprising a detection mechanism (131) for detecting whether the mobile unit is attached to the base station so as to allow the external power source to power the light sources within the mobile unit; see Fig. 26A; and col. 21, line 59 to col. 22, line 11.

Re claim 17, Hulick further teaches that the display is a flat panel display (105) and the plurality of light sources are disposed near edges of the mobile unit; see Figs. 3 and 14; col. 5, lines 60-61; and col. 7, lines 56-65.

Re claims 19 and 20, Kitamura further teaches that the light of the light source (15) is transmitted into a backlight structure (6) (a light transmission plate 6) of the mobile unit; and the base unit is configured so that attaching the mobile unit to the base station (11) switches on power to at least one light source (15) in the base station that transmits light to the mobile unit's display, see Fig. 1, and abstract.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 3-7 and 9-11 are allowed.

Conclusion

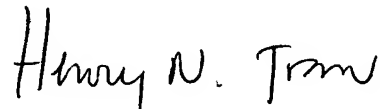
9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. They are U.S. Patents Nos.: 6301106, 6625015, 5854617, 6462941, 5796382, 5696529, 6417833, 6426736, 6483698 and 6711,005, and US Publication No. 2001/0043188 that teach a mobile computers and/or backlight illumination systems.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Henry N. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-7760. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, RICHARD A. HJERPE can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry N. Tran". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Henry N Tran
Primary Examiner
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HT
5/3/06